

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **PNG ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION RELEASES PRELIMINARY REPORT ON MIL-8 MTV HELICOPTER ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION**

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani today announced the release of a Preliminary Report on the investigation conducted with regard to a Mil-8 MTV helicopter accident which occurred on 15 May 2021, at Gobo, Jiwaka Province.

Mr. Namani explained that *“On 15 May 2021, at 12:45 local time, a representative of Hevilift Aviation Limited notified the AIC about an accident, which occurred earlier that day, involving a MIL-8 MTV helicopter, registered P2-MHM, operated by them, that sustained loss of control during take-off at Gobo, Jiwaka Province, Papua New Guinea.*

Immediately after being notified by Hevilift Aviation Limited, the AIC commenced an investigation into the accident under the Civil Aviation Act 2000 (as amended) and aligned with Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, on behalf of PNG as a signatory State to the Convention. Annex 13 also establishes the obligation of issuing Preliminary Reports within 30 days from the date of an accident or serious incident.

Mr. Namani added that *“The aircraft was conducting a VFR Charter flight, from Gobo, Jiwaka Province to Mt. Hagen Airport, Western Highlands Province. There were four persons on-board, two pilots, one flight engineer and one passenger, who was an employee of the Operator. The passenger suffered serious injuries and the pilots and flight engineer suffered minor injuries. The helicopter was destroyed.*

*“The team continues the process of collecting and analysing information and evidence relevant for the investigation in key areas including, but not limited to, flight operations, airworthiness condition and maintenance of the helicopter, its weight and balance, ground handling, survival aspects, emergency response, training and competency, organisational aspects and other areas as applicable, to the extent required to determine the causes and circumstances in which the accident occurred.”*

As per its legal mandate, all AIC investigations are conducted with the sole purpose of improving safety for the travelling public, with complete independence from other State authorities, aviation service providers and stakeholders. AIC investigations do not apportion blame or liability to any person or organisation.

More information about the AIC and this investigation is available at [www.aic.gov.pg](http://www.aic.gov.pg)